



# Cavy

## 4-H Project Newsletter



*This CAVY Project Newsletter contains information specific to the CAVY Project. Please use it in conjunction with the General 4-H Information Bulletin, so that you are aware of Achievement Day completion requirements as well as general opportunities and information pertaining to all 4-H members. This Project Newsletter, as well as the General 4-H Information Bulletin, will be updated in December of each year, if necessary, based on changes made at the 4-H Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting.*

Welcome to the 4-H Cavy Project! This is a new project, so hopefully this newsletter will give you an overview of the Cavy project, answer some of your questions concerning expectations of the project and provide you with project ideas and some resources. Project newsletters are an excellent reference to keep on hand to refer to throughout the year. Enjoy your year in the Cavy project and when working on your project, remember to "Learn to do by Doing." If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Agriculture Leadership Coordinator (ALC).

### **Project Work Requirements**

On Achievement Day, Cavy members must complete showmanship with their registered 4-H Cavy. Please note the dress code for all Cavy showmanship and conformation classes is a white lab coat or white pants and a white long-sleeved shirt. Hard soled boots are encouraged for member's safety. Members can wear sun-safety hats when showing livestock in an outdoor area. The dress code will be enforced at 4-H Nova Scotia 4-H Shows.

### **Livestock Registration**

4-H members must select their 4-H animals by May 1st of the current 4-H year, and must submit livestock registration information to the Regional ALC by May 15th of the current 4-H year. This information is necessary to assist with county show/exhibition planning, including judges, class schedules, awards, etc. The following information must be submitted for Livestock Registration requirements: name of member, junior member/senior member, conformation class entered, sex of animal, breed of animal, and date of birth of animal.

4-H animals may be substituted between the registration deadline of May 15th and Achievement Day in the case of injury, sickness, disease or death of the animal. If an animal is to be substituted prior to Achievement Day, pre-approval from the Regional ALC is necessary. A vet certificate may be required. After Achievement Day, no substitutions are permitted. 4-H members who complete their livestock project with their own registered/approved animal on Achievement Day may use another 4-H member's 4-H animal in a showmanship class at county show/exhibition and the 4-H Nova Scotia Show.

## Conformation Classes

Although conformation is not an Achievement Day requirement, livestock conformation classes are commonly held at county level competitions and 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. Cavy Conformation classes are divided based on sex and age of cavy. Members may exhibit a maximum of 3 sections per 4-H year.

### **Class 37: CAVY**

**Section 1: Junior Sow** Female, born January 1, current year, to April 1 current year.

**Section 2: Senior Sow** Female, born before January 1, current year.

*(previous calendar year or earlier)*

**Section 3: Junior Boar** Male, born January 1, current year, to April 1 current year.

**Section 4: Senior Boar** Male, born before January 1, current year.

*(previous calendar year or earlier)*

The top cavy in each section will be eligible to attend the 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show. (top section 1- junior sow; top section 2- senior sow; top section 3- junior boar; top section 4- senior boar). Champion Cavy (Sow or Boar) will be awarded.

Conformation classes will be judged according to the Standards of Perfection.

There are 13 breeds of Cavy currently. Breeds available are Abyssinian (rosettes); Abyssinian Satin; American Smooth; American Satin; Coronet (long hair with a crest); Peruvian (long hair); Peruvian Satin (long hair); Self Crested (sometimes called English Crested); Silkie (long hair); Silkie Satin (long hair); Teddy; Teddy Satin; White Crested (sometimes called American Crested). All breeds of cavy will show in the same class, the class will be divided according to sex (boar or sow) and according to age (junior or senior).

## CAGE GUIDELINES/SIZES

Please read this section carefully. The perfect cage should:

- **Minimum size for one cavy/guinea pig is 4 square feet and 18" high. Cages should be 60 x 60 x 45.5 cm (24" x 24" x 18") high**
- Be structurally sound and in good repair (i.e. No sharp edges or abrasive surfaces in contact with the animal);
- Allow freedom of movement
- Be escape proof;
- Allow food and water to be provided so that spillage is not a problem;
- Be easy to clean;
- Allow adequate view of the animal both for exhibit purposes and for general observation to prevent problems
- Try to keep cage out of direct sunlight

- Floor surface is recommended to be solid to prevent foot injuries, and that the floor be moisture resistant.
- Protect cavy from drafts and dampness.

**NOTE:** *Cages should not be stacked without water tight pans between them. 4-H Nova Scotia requires that all cages have waterproof pans at 4-H Nova Scotia Provincial Show.*

**Please note that the National Farm Animal Code of Practice should be followed when housing animals for 4-H events.**

**These standards can be found at:** <http://www.nfacc.ca/>

### **CONTAGIOUS/INFECTIOUS DISEASE & QUARANTINE:**

4-H members, leaders, parents and livestock owners are reminded that 4-H achievement days and shows are showcases for the 4-H program, and the agricultural industry in this province. They are reminded that infectious diseases can be transmitted during transport, as well as at the show. As such, it is strongly recommended for the protection of the public, participants, and the animals at the show, that animals having or showing signs of infectious diseases not be brought to shows. As well, livestock exhibitors and owners must understand that in attending 4-H Shows, there is a risk of their animal contracting disease regardless of the best efforts of all involved.

If you suspect that your animal has a contagious/infectious disease, please contact your local veterinarian immediately and learn more about the consequences, treatment, and transmission of the disease.

A brochure providing additional information on "Infectious and Contagious Diseases Affecting 4-H Livestock" is available. If you wish to receive a copy by mail or email, please contact your ALC for this information. It contains important information for all livestock members on this topic and will be critical to review with 4-H Clubs, livestock owners, and your local veterinarian when making decisions about attending 4-H achievement days and shows.

### **PROJECT MEETING IDEAS:**

- Identify common breed characteristics
- Learn the history of the cavy and facts about cavies
- Learn the nutritional needs of the cavy
- Learn about diseases and illnesses affecting cavies and prevention
- Learn the Standard of Perfection, and how to judge and give reasons
- Take in a local show
- Visit a vet clinic
- Have a showmanship clinic and invite a local breeder to present